

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 01178 170820Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 /077 W  
-----170837Z 062984 /17

R 170715Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8255  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 1178

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR SREF LA TH  
SUBJECT: REPORTED INFLUX OF LAO REFUGEES

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 10 (B) BANGKOK 268

1. CONSULATE UDORN'S REPORTING INDICATES THAT SIZE OF INFLUX OF LAO REFUGEES REPORTED FLOWING INTO NORTHEASTERN THAILAND RECENTLY AND PARTICULARLY IN LATE DECEMBER HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS. POLICE CHIEF AT MOST FREQUENTLY CITED POINT OF ENTRY, PHON PHISAI IN NONG KHAI PROVINCE, SAID JAN 5 THAT DURING PRIOR THREE WEEKS ONLY 69 REFUGEES ARRIVED THERE FROM LAOS (35 ETHNIC LAO, 20 VIETNAMESE, 14 THAI DAM). HE SAID REFUGEES APPEARED TO BE FROM LOWER MIDDLE CLASS, CLAIMING THEY LEFT LAOS BECAUSE OF POOR LIVING CONDITIONS, SCARCE FOOD, AND INCREASING REGIMENTATION. SEVERAL SAID THEY FEARED BEING RECRUITED FOR WORK ON PROPOSED RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

2. NONG KAHU GOVERNOR CHAMNAN POTCHANA TOLD CONSUL  
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UDORN DEC 30 THAT ABOUT 400-500 NEW REFUGEES HAD RECENTLY ENTERED HIS PROVINCE, WHICH WAS APPARENTLY MONTHLY TOTAL RATHER THAN THAT OF CHRISTMAS WEEK. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN BUT NOT ALARM ABOUT SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN USUAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES FOR MONTH. LOCAL IMMIGRATION CHIEF NOTED WEEK LATER THAT THERE HAS BEEN INCREASED NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE SHOPKEEPERS AND TRASESMEN AMONG RECENT REFUGEES, APPARENTLY DUE TO LPDR'S

CONTINUING HOSTILITY TOWARD PRIVATE BUSINESS AND TRADE.  
THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME 250 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN NONG KHAI  
CAMP.

3. UNHCR NORTHEAST REP TOLD CONSUL JAN 7 THAT UBON  
REFUGEE CAMP NOW HAS TOTAL OF APPROX 4,500 PERSONS VICE 3,000  
AT END OF AUGUST. TOTAL INCLUDED 400 NEW LAO  
REFUGEES WHO ENTERED DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER, AMONG WHOM WERE  
30 KHA FROM SOUTHEASTERN LAOS.

4. VOLAG REP REPORTED JAN 14 THAT NONG KHAI STILL RECEIVING  
CONTINUOUS TRICKLE OF REFUGEES. ATTEMPTS AT LEARNING WHETHER  
RESISTANCE FIGHTING RESPONSIBLE FOR INFLOW ELICITED NO REACTION.  
AMONG MOST RECENT REFUGEES WERE NUMBER OF VIENTIANE HOSPITAL  
EMPLOYEES, WHO REPORTED THAT HOSPITALS WERE FULL OF SOLDIERS  
SUFFERING FROM JAUNDICE, MALARIA, AND GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

5. FINALLY, PRESS REPORTED JAN 16 THAT YET ANOTHER LAO  
PILOT FLEW HIS PLANE INTO UDORN TO SEEK REFUGE. A LIEUTENANT,  
HE ARRIVED TWO DAYS EARLIER IN A SMALL CESSNA 01A AIRCRAFT.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, REFUGEES, DATA  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BANGKO01178  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 VIENTIANE 10, 77 BANGKOK 268  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3585424  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED INFLUX OF LAO REFUGEES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SREF, LA, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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